



The Alliance for a Safer Greater Detroit

MICHIGAN HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILLS NO 6348 AND 6416

SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is John Broad, and I am the President of The Alliance for a Safer Greater Detroit and Crime Stoppers of Michigan. Thank you for allowing me to speak on house bills no. 6348 and 6416. The Alliance was founded as an affiliate of the Detroit Regional Chamber 13 years ago as a partnership of law enforcement, business and community. I was the original chairman and John O'Hair, Wayne County Prosecutor, and Horace Sheffield were co-chairmen. Our first project was the creation of the Alliance Fugitive Task Force that was formed as an interagency effort of the FBI, Michigan State Police and the Wayne County Sheriff to apprehend dangerous fugitives. This task force continues today. We were also responsible for the creation of the Freeway Courtesy Patrol to assist stranded motorists on the Detroit freeways. GM and Ford contributed vans and AAA provided management and drivers. This effort was later joined by Chrysler. This effort was spun off to MDOT which now operates these courtesy vans in

many parts of the State. Another effort was Fugitive Watch where the Detroit News and Free Press agreed to publish a page of fugitives if, at the last moment, they were unable to sell a page of advertising. Fugitive Watch led to the arrest of many dangerous criminals. Unfortunately, this feature was stopped after the newspaper strike.

Three years ago, the Alliance adopted Crime Stoppers as its principal program. This program operates in 22 countries and is extensive in the United States and Canada. Our program is called Crime Stoppers of Michigan and operates in the seven- county SEMCOG area. Our mission is to *empower people to make their neighborhoods safer*. Last year, we processed over 1600 tips. This year, we hope to receive and process more than 2000 tips. If these tips lead to an arrest, the tip is presented to our Reward Court for consideration of a reward. Most months, there are one or two homicides that are solved through our program. In addition, we have many narcotics tips that result in arrests.

The murder of the bookkeeper in Grosse Pointe was solved with the help of one of our tips. A recent murder in a Coney Island in Highland Park which was featured on several television programs was also solved with our help.

For the first time, a defense attorney attempted to subpoena our records in connection with the Grosse Pointe homicide. We resisted and convinced the attorney that we did not have any further information. The police had turned

over the tips to the prosecuting attorney who, in turn, passed them on to the defense attorney without our knowledge.

We promise our tipsters that they can be assured of complete anonymity.

Neither the police nor the prosecutor should have passed on these tips.

However, they do not always know what they can or cannot do under the law.

We need this legislation so that law enforcement knows that this information

does not have to be given to defense attorneys. **We cannot continue Crime**

Stoppers if citizens cannot trust us to protect their anonymity.

Regarding House Bill No. 6416, we need the help of the legislature to allow police departments to consider sharing drug forfeiture monies with Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers of Michigan, as well as the other Crime Stoppers/Silent Observer organizations in the State, are struggling to find enough funds to pay rewards and provide the organization to alert citizens about people that the police are looking for -- or crimes that need to be solved. People want to help keep their neighborhoods safer, but they need to know the crimes that need to be solved or fugitives wanted by the police. Unfortunately, this takes money. The police are strapped for manpower with several departments having to resort to layoffs. They have to do more with less, just as companies do. A police department is only as good as the information that they have. To be successful, they must leverage their efforts by getting the cooperation of citizens. That is what we do.

We are attempting to create a web site where all of the police departments will be able to upload their unsolved crimes and wanted felons, and the public will be able to access the information by zip code, type of crime, etc. This takes money. We currently provide posters to families who are the victims of a crime or police departments that need help. That takes money. We have talked to the police about helping us financially. They tell us the best source of monies would be drug forfeiture monies -- especially since we provide information about drugs. They tell us their hands are tied by the present laws.

The Detroit Public Schools is in the process of implementing Crime Stoppers in their middle - and high schools. This will reduce school vandalism, protect students, staff and teachers, and also alert counselors to despondent students who risk hurting themselves.

We are here today to ask for your help to allow police departments to use a small part of these drug forfeiture monies to assist us as they see fit.

City of Grosse Pointe
Department of Public Safety

17145 MAUMEE AVENUE
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN 48230
TELEPHONE (313) 886-3200
FAX (313) 417-3584



September 19, 2006

The Honorable Representative William VanRegenmorter
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State of Michigan
308 House Office Building
Lansing, MI

Dear Representative VanRegenmorter,

My name is Al Fincham, and I am Chief of Police for the City of Grosse Pointe. As you may know, Grosse Pointe endured its first homicide in 60 years following the murder of bookkeeper Barbara Iske in June 2005. An anonymous tip from Crime Stoppers of Michigan based here locally in Detroit led to the arrest of the suspects and their subsequent conviction. Their conviction might never have taken place, however, if the defense attorney motion for discovery had been honored in identifying the source of the tip.

The core value to Crime Stoppers is to empower citizens to make their neighborhoods safer through the use of the anonymous tip line to report serious crime. It is critical to the success of this program that the individual who provides police with a tip be protected from intimidation, or worse. The program would quickly dissolve if there was a method discovered that forced the identity of a citizen to be exposed. I wholeheartedly support pending legislation entitled HB6416 that maintains the confidentiality of the tipster.

Additionally, I also am aware of the ongoing struggle that Crime Stoppers of Michigan has with funding. The organization has made an attempt to access drug forfeiture monies as one way in which to underwrite the reward monies for providing tips to law enforcement officials.

Unfortunately, the current law does not permit any such use of those funds. I know of several law enforcement agencies that would contribute a portion of their forfeiture funding to assist Crime Stoppers if the current statute was amended to permit it. What better way to assist in the fight against crime than to have some of the criminals' forfeited assets used in this battle? Again, HB6416 also addresses this important tool for reducing crime in our communities.

Please insure that this legislation is successfully reported out of committee and ultimately supported by the House. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Al Fincham, Chief of Police
City of Grosse Pointe
17145 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

T Grosse Pointe TIMES

Serving all five Grosse Pointes

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C. & G Newspapers

July 5, 2006

Grosse Pointe chiefs partner to promote tip line

By AMY POWELL
C & G STAFF WRITER

One call could break a case.
One call could catch a criminal
who thought he'd gotten away.
One call could save a life or
keep a street drug-free.
So why hesitate?
It's a message being sent
across public safety departments
throughout the Grosse Pointes and

Harper Woods in a collaborative
effort to stress the importance of a
free and rewarding tool used to
catch the bad guys.

Police chiefs have now officially
kicked off an awareness
campaign via driving billboards —
marked by bumper stickers that
will soon be seen on every patrol
car from all six departments — to
See TIPS on page 12A

INSIDE: 4A Crime Watch | 6A Sports

12A - GROSSE POINTE TIMES, July 5, 2006.

Tips

from page 1A

promote Crime Stoppers of Michigan, the anonymous tip hotline that just last year furnished more than 1,200 tips to officers in the lakeside area.

"It's a community reminder that it's a valuable resource," said Grosse Pointe Park Director David Hiller. "We've had a number of opportunities when people who are no longer reluctant to come forward if money is available. Take advantage of it, it's there."

The phone number, 1-800-SPEAKUP, connects a caller to a center outside the state, sometimes in Canada. After relaying the information, Crime Stoppers gives a tip number, which the caller is asked to keep confidential.

Launched as part of a partnership alliance of business, law enforcement and community leaders, the recent initiative has Crime Stoppers encouraging residents of every community to get involved in reducing crime and the perception of it in the greater Detroit area, all while

earning a reward.

If an arrest results from a called-in tip, a citizen can earn up to \$1,000, claiming the reward by visiting a bank and then presenting the tip number.

"We're glad to be part of the organization and helping them out. It's a great program for us. It's an excellent resource that helps fight crime," said Grosse Pointe Woods Director Michael Makowski.

The chiefs are also encouraging local businesses to participate in financially supporting Crime Stoppers. According to its president, John Broad, those already involved — from Blue Cross and Blue Shield to Charter One and Flagstar banks to General Motors — do so because they know the region "cannot grow if there is a perception that this is not a safe place; that it is tougher to get talent to locate here; tougher to get conferences and conventions to come here and people to shop here."

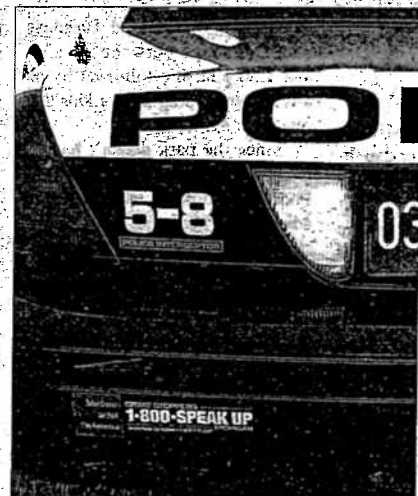
Additionally, Broad said in a statement, "police departments have more to do today with few resources and they need our help. Both businesses and citizens must act as the eyes and ears of the police if we are to make our neighborhoods safer."

According to Tim Bannister, membership and communications director for the Alliance for a Safer Greater Detroit, the move by the chiefs is the first step toward enhancing the greater community.

"It's a formal recognition to try and publicize it more because it's had such a great impact," he said.

And, he said, it's important for people to grasp that the phone call they make is completely anonymous.

"About half never called back for their reward. That really means they did it out of the benefit of the community. We're trying to empower people because it's up to the citizens to do the calling, to take a little risk and end up seeing someone removed from the street."



The bumper stickers give the phone number residents can use to report a crime anonymously.

Photos by Amy Powell

CRIME STOPPERS
1-800-SPEAK UP
MICHIGAN
Anonymous Tip Hotline

CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN
Reward Summaries
April 19, 2006

Detroit's Most Wanted

A reward was paid out for tip information leading to an arrest of an individual who was wanted for a fatal shooting last year and who was listed as one of Detroit's most dangerous criminals.

Homicide Cold Case

We received an anonymous tip with information on the location of a fugitive that was wanted for the murder of an elderly male who was fatally stabbed in his home while the fugitive was breaking into his home a couple of years ago. This was a cold case and police had no credible leads until the anonymous information was provided that led to the arrest of an individual who confessed to being responsible for this terrible homicide.

Shooting of Two Police Officers

A tip was received and forwarded over to the Violent Crimes Task Force on a shooting involving two police officers from Detroit's Northwest District. The officers were transported to Grace Hospital in serious condition where they were treated and are expected to have a full recovery. A statewide manhunt followed with over 120 local addresses being checked. The crime stoppers tip was received from a person watching the news that featured a man wanted for the shooting of the officers. The tipster observed a man who resembled the wanted man pacing up and down in a garage. The Task Force made the tip location and found the suspect who made a full confession to shooting the officers.

Assault with intent to murder

A tip was received and forwarded to the Wayne County Fugitive Apprehension Service Team on a fugitive wanted for assault with intent to murder. The tip indicated the vehicle that the fugitive was driving and the address where the fugitive was staying. FAST Team made the tip location and observed the fugitives described vehicle driving down the street with a passenger in the vehicle. The officers turned on their siren and made the fugitive pull his vehicle over to the curb. The officer approached the car giving loud verbal commands to halt. The fugitive behind the wheel placed his car into drive and began to flee. The officer returned to his vehicle and began to pursue the suspect's vehicle. The fugitive turned the corner and his vehicle was out of site. The pursuing officers rounded the corner and found the fugitive involved in a single car accident. The fugitive and the passenger were then observed fleeing on foot from their crashed vehicle. The officers chased down the fugitive and placed him in custody.

Fugitive shoot out

A tip was received and forwarded to the Wayne County Fugitive Apprehension Service Team on a fugitive wanted for a parole absconder. FAST team 7 was assigned the tip due to statements made by the tipster that the fugitive will shoot it out with the police and that the fugitive carries two guns on him. The team made the tip location and located the fugitive inside the home. The fugitive was taken into custody without incident.

Drug House

A tip was received and forwarded to Detroit Narcotics on a drug house trafficking drugs. The location was under surveillance, the officers observed the activity and a buy was made. As a result of this tip an arrest was made and \$5910 worth of marijuana, a weapon and \$11,401 in cash was confiscated by Detroit's Northwestern District.

Drug Raid

A tip was received and forwarded to Detroit Narcotics on a drug house with constant traffic from noon to midnight. As a result of this tip two felony arrests were made, \$132 in cash and \$20,200 worth of cocaine was confiscated.

Gangs

The Firearm Investigative Team received a Crime Stoppers tip describing a gang house. The tip indicated that the leader of the gang frequents this location and that there would be several weapons in the house. Surveillance was set up at the tip location and the gang leader was observed entering the location. Members of the Firearm Investigative Team were allowed entry and consent was given to search the location. One 12 gauge pump action shotgun was recovered from the location for safe keeping and a 15 year old gang member was identified and interviewed.

In addition there were four other small narcotic tips that lead to felony arrests.

Program Stats for 2005

It does pay to call crime stoppers.

Flint Area Crime Stoppers Statistics
 Coordinator: Sgt Mike Lipp/ Ofc. Tanya Ross
 1-800-422-jail Fax: 810-766-7083
 Statistics for payouts as of December 31, 2005

Cases solved this period

Homicide Arrests.....	6	Total from inception	
Rape.....	2		137
Armed Robbery.....	5		76
Aggravated Assaults.....	0		.307
Burglary.....	2		126
Larceny/Theft/UDAA.....	25		.655
Arson.....	1		.1041
Narcotics.....	3		85
Forgery/Fraud.....	2		872
Fugitives.....	39		248
Other.....	1		570
			435
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Cases Solved.....	95		4570
Code Numbers given out.....	369		7954
S value of recovered property	100,000		9,912,550
S value of recovered Narcotics	30,000		4,101,600
Rewards Paid.....	10,400		177,137
Arrests.....	42		4378